

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 23-24 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 10, 17, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of Katsuya et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,507,381). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 10, 17, 23, and 24 have been amended to call for the alignment layer to be formed on the electrodes and inside the region delimited by the sealant. Further, claims 1, 10, 17, 23, and 24 have been amended to call for the alignment layer to be formed so as to partially overlap the sealant in a region for conducting between the substrates and cross a region for forming the sealant in a region other than the region for conducting between the substrates. This subject matter was previously found in claim 22.

With respect to this subject matter, the Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to the AAPA so that the alignment layer is formed to partially overlap the sealant in a region for conducting between the substrates, and cross a region for forming the sealant in a region other than the region for conducting between the substrates, because such a configuration reduces a low twist domain occurrence. Nevertheless, assuming arguendo that the Examiner's allegation is correct, Applicant's

respectfully assert that the configuration of the claimed invention achieves much more than a reduced low twist domain.

More particularly, referring to page 22, line 11 – page 23, line 12 and page 25, line 17 – page 26, line 8 of the present application, it can be seen that the claimed configuration enables the use of a flexographic printer. Further, such a configuration makes it easier to control the flexographic printer such that, even if the printing regions for the alignment layers cannot be controlled in a certain direction spaces do not occur between the sealant and the alignment layer. Still further, although it is necessary to control the printing regions so that the alignment layers do not cover the terminals for conducting between the substrates and the input-output terminals, it is relatively easy to control the printing regions using the flexographic printer and spaces do not occur between the sealant and alignment layer. Neither the AAPA nor Katsuya teach, suggest, or provide motivation to employ such a configuration such that it is easier to control a flexographic printer. Since neither the AAPA nor Katsuya teach, suggest, or provide motivation, it would not have been obvious to utilize a alignment layer formed on the electrodes and inside the region delimited by the sealant, and formed so as to partially overlap the sealant in a region for conducting between the substrates and cross a region for forming the sealant in a region other than the region for conducting between the substrates.

Claims 2-9, 11-16, and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' admitted prior art in view of Katsuya et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,507,381) and further in view of Watanabe et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,150,239). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2-9 are dependent on claim 1, claims 11-16 are dependent on claim 10, and claims 18-21 are dependent on claim 17. Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are not obvious for at least the same reasons as their independent base claims, respectively.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

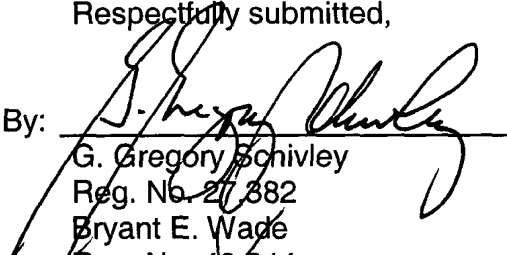
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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